

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL DISTRICTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, October 16, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. – Room W130 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis Stowell
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker
Rep. Christine A. Johnson

Staff Present:

Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dennis Stowell called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Rep. Gibson introduced Wang Hai Chen, his Eisenhower Fellow guest, visiting from Beijing, China. Committee members introduced themselves and the districts they represent.

MOTION: Rep. Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Special Service Districts

Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel, reviewed 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Special Service District Revisions," addressing the rewrite of Title 17A, Chapter 2, Part 13, Special Service Districts. He explained that the draft organizes the language and rewrites those parts of the code that deal with special service districts into one area and renames them to local districts. He emphasized that the draft legislation is not complete and that the rewrite will continue.

Mr. Mark Anderson, Utah Associations of Special Districts, repeated some of the discussion from the work group meetings. He feels there could be more substantive issues dealt with during the next meeting and asked for permission to submit suggestions for streamlining the creation portion of the statute.

Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Paul Ashton, White City Water Improvement District, explained that the cost of elections has made the process of special district creation prohibitive. He suggested that the statute state that if there is no objection from the local government to using the resolution process, an election may not be required.

Mr. Rees clarified that when this part of the code was written, it was the intention of the Legislature to make it difficult for special districts to be created and encourage the local government to provide the service itself.

Mr. Adam Trupp, Utah Association of Counties, spoke in favor of the Subcommittee considering other changes.